

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
LOW BARRIER HOMELESS SHELTER TASK FORCE**

Held: November 30, 2022

Task Force Objective:

Provide an overview of all the homelessness organizations/studies/programs that are ongoing in the Indianapolis Community that will serve a role within the Task Force. The Ultimate goal will be to develop a low barrier project in close proximity to downtown Indianapolis to address the needs of the homeless population through sustainable housing and clinical services.

The regular meeting of the Low Barrier Homeless Shelter Task Force was called to order on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at 10:00am at Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 12, Cardinal Hall.

A roll call of Task Force Members took place, and the following individuals were physically present at the meeting: Co-Chair Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett, and Task Force Members and designates Rick Alvis, Karen Holly, Rep. Sen. Jack Sandlin, Matt Rayburn and members of the staff from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

The following individuals were present remotely, via Microsoft Teams: Task Force Members Tim Brown, Dr. Chelsea Haring-Cozzi, Christine Blessinger.

Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett served as Chair of the meeting and Michael McQuillen served as Secretary.

A conversation took place on the draft copy of the Low Barrier Homeless Shelter Task Force year-end report. COVID concerns over the past few years and how those concerns impacted Homeless outreach was a part of that discussion. Dr. Haring will put together a brief report about post-pandemic lessons learned to share with the Task Force.

Chair Bennett will reach out to our partners in Lafayette to similarly review how their shelter plus services model could impact the plan being put together for the state as a whole.

Matt Rayburn asked for specific action items in the report to be taken-up by elected officials to move the plan a whole, forward.

Concerns about post-prison homeless individuals being dropped-off in both large and small communities and the challenges presented by that process took place.

Rick Alvis and the members discussed the fact that Wheeler Mission is full a majority of the calendar year, with the coldest months being the most difficult to find available beds.

The issue of finding temporary housing for ex-sex offenders was discussed. The reluctance of some landlords to house said individuals followed.

A section-by-section review of the draft LBHSTF report took place with Chair Bennett mentioning that he had modeled the layout of the report after the final report issued last month by the Housing Task Force.

Chair Bennett will circulate a revised draft of the final report for member input, leading up to the final LBHSTF meeting to be held on 12-09-22 following a brief discussion about that final meeting date.

Chairman Bennett asked for other business, however, no other business was brought forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:01am.

Next Task Force Meeting Time and Location – December 9, 2022, at 1:30pm at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 12, Cardinal Hall.